

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION: LIVING
WITH ART

Is art part of your life?



Dorothy and Herbert Vogel in their apartment.

They assembled one of the most important private art collections of the 20th century

Assignment #1 – Purposes of Art

1. Divide into groups of 3 students. Introduce yourself and choose who is going to write the answers. Write your names at the top of the paper.
2. Without looking at any sources, make a list of all the purposes of art, writing as many purposes as possible in bullet points. Be creative! There is no one right answer to this assignment.
3. Once you have a good list, choose 3 purposes that you are most interested in and provide examples of art that demonstrate those purposes. Provide the title, date, and name of the artist/designer/architect of each work. Explain how the examples demonstrate those purposes, using specific evidence from the artworks.
4. Take a photo of the group members and a photo of the paper. Submit the hard copy to your teacher in class and the photos on Canvas.
5. Congratulations! You just earned 6 points!

What purposes does art serve?

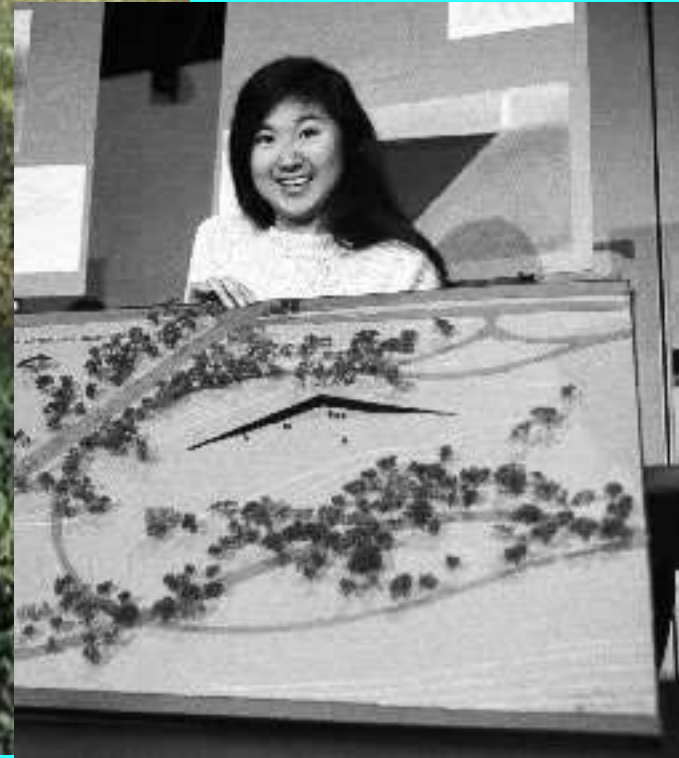
(the functions of art)

- Creates places for human purpose
- Creates extra-ordinary versions of ordinary objects
- Records and commemorates
- Gives tangible form to the unknown
- Gives tangible form to feelings and ideas
- Refreshes our vision and helps us see the world in a new way
- Promotes social, political, religious ideas (e.g. – propaganda, protest)
- Assists in various rituals
- Entertains; creates alternative reality
- Assist in healing

Art creates places for some human purpose.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C. 1982. Black granite, length 492'



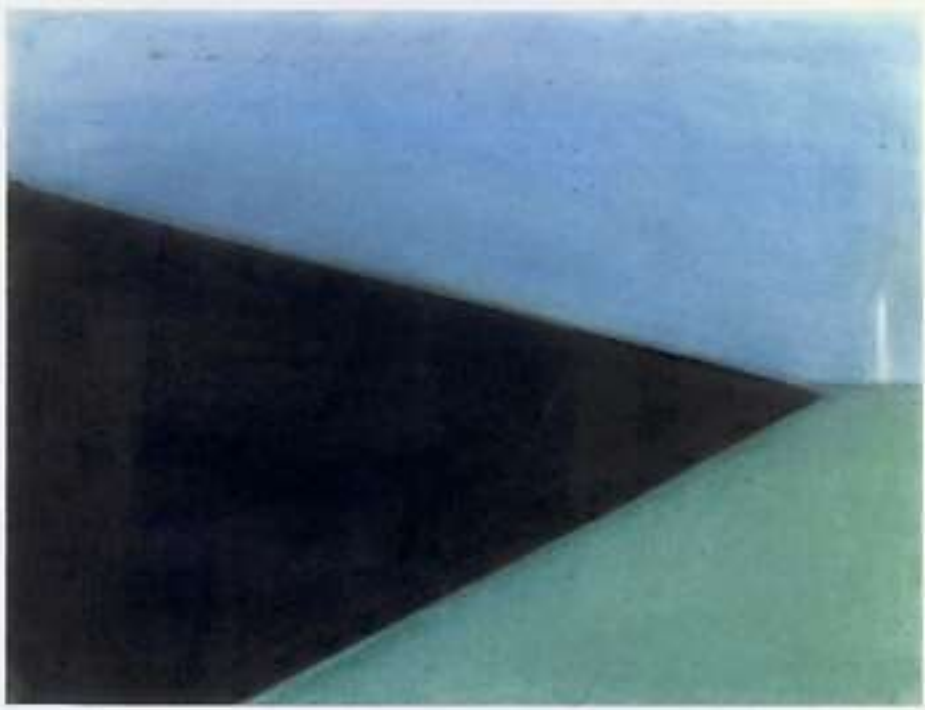
Maya Lin with a model of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 1980.

Maya Ying Lin (b. 1959).



American sculptor and architect. She was still an undergraduate at Yale University when she won the competition for a Vietnam War veterans memorial to be built near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Amid controversy over her untraditional design (and, remarkably, complaints that it had been created by a young woman of Chinese descent).

It became the most visited monument in Washington, D.C. and she has gone on to design other memorials, landscape sculptures and private residences.



Color Sketch of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial



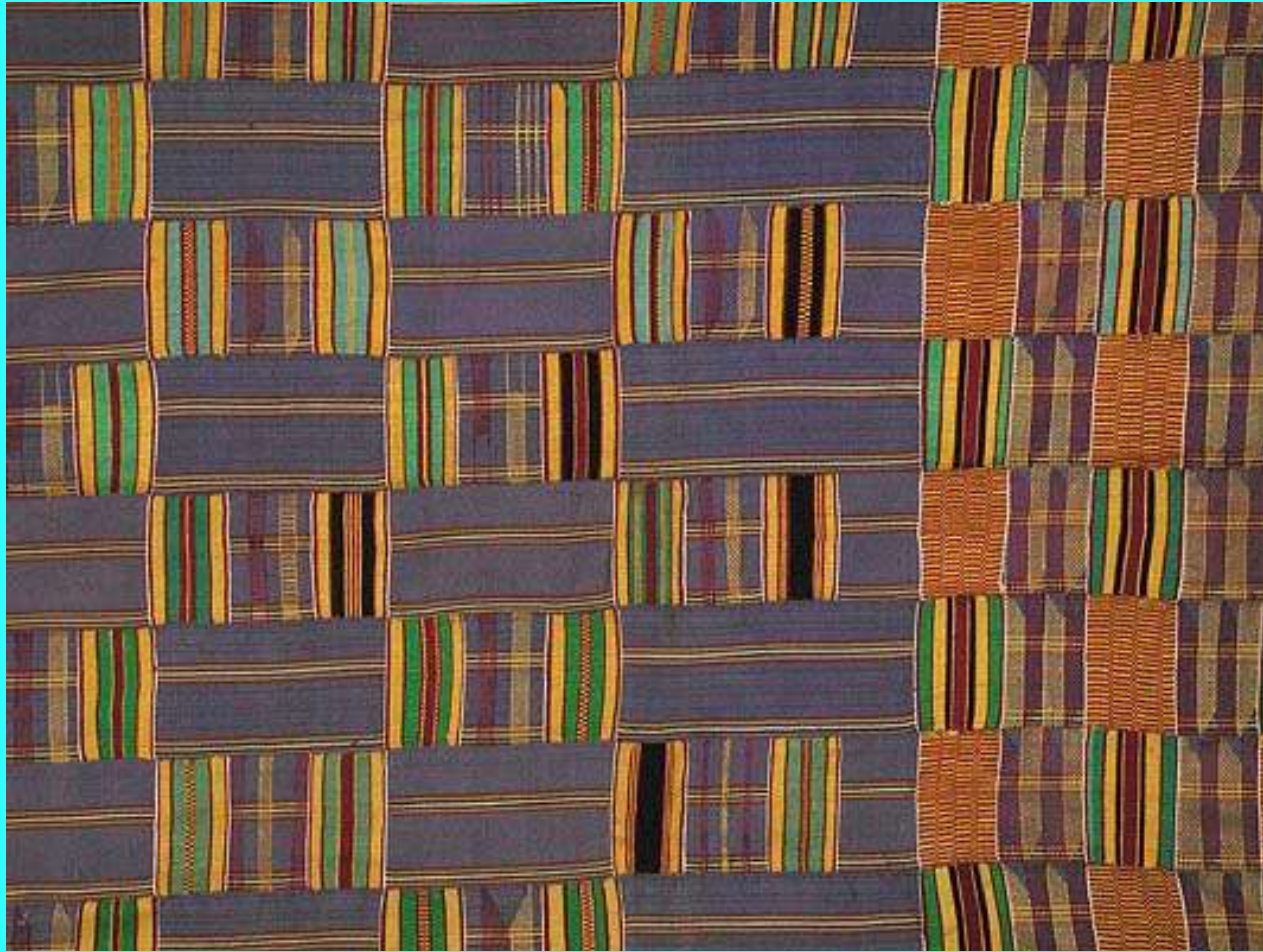


Frederick Hart . *The Three Soldiers*, bronze 1984

**Art creates extra ordinary versions
of ordinary objects**



Kente cloth from Ghana.
Asante. 20th c. 71x41", rayon.
(This size cloth is worn by a woman;
a full man's kente is usually about 7 x
11 feet.)



Kente cloth from Ghana. Asante. 20th c. 71x41", rayon



A man weaves kente cloth using a traditional loom, Bonwire village, Ashanti region, Ghana.

A variety of kente patterns have been invented, each of which has a certain concept or concepts traditionally associated with it.

Tea bowl

Shigaraki ware,
Japan, early 17th
century. Victoria
and Albert
Museum, London.



Art Cars



Pakistani Trucks



Art records and commemorates

Labille-Guiard was elected to one of the four places in the French Academy available for women in 1783.

In 1790 she successfully petitioned to end the restriction on women.

Adelaide Labille-Guiard:
Self Portrait with Two Pupils. 1785. Oil on Canvas 6'X4'.
Metropolitan Museum of Art. NY



Art gives tangible form to the unknown

Nataraja (Shiva as Lord of the Dance), India,
10th century C.E. Bronze, 5
1/4" high. Rijksmuseum,
Amsterdam.



**Art gives tangible form to feelings
and ideas**

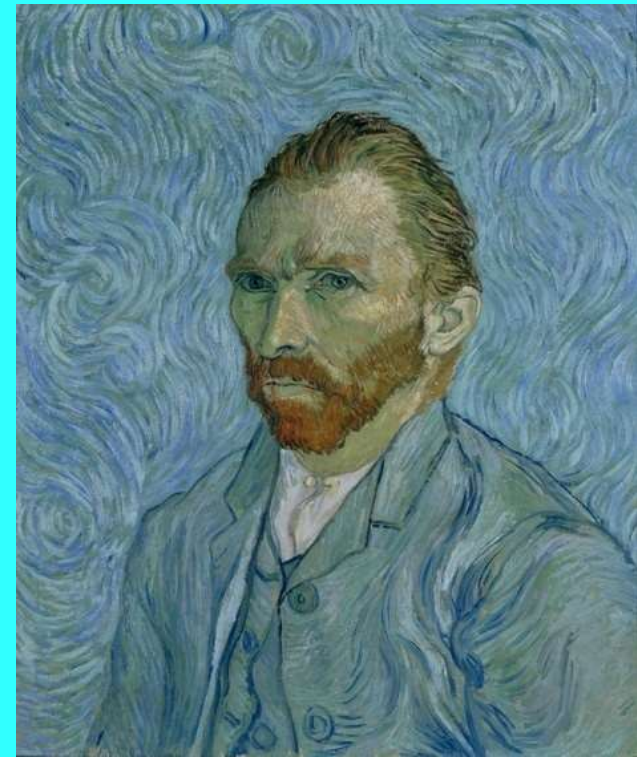
Van Gogh, Vincent (1853–90)

A nineteenth-century Dutch painter who worked mainly in France. His brief, turbulent, and tragic life is thought to epitomize the mad genius legend.

Only one of his paintings was sold while he lived. The great majority of the works by which he is remembered were produced in 29 months of frenzied activity and intermittent bouts with epileptoid seizures and profound despair that finally ended in suicide.

In his grim struggle he had one constant ally and support, his younger brother, to whom he wrote revealing letters detailing his conflicts and aspirations.

Since his death, his paintings have been sold for many millions of dollars.





Vincent van Gogh, *Starry Night*, 1889. Oil on canvas, 29" x 36 1/4".

The Museum of Modern Art, New York.



“Just as we take a train to Tarascon or Rouen, we take death to reach a star” Vincent van Gogh

**Art refreshes our vision and helps
us see the world in new ways**



Ernst Haas. *Peeling Paint on Iron Bench*, Kyoto, 1981. Kodachrome print.

Art promotes social, political and religious ideas (e.g. – propaganda, protest)

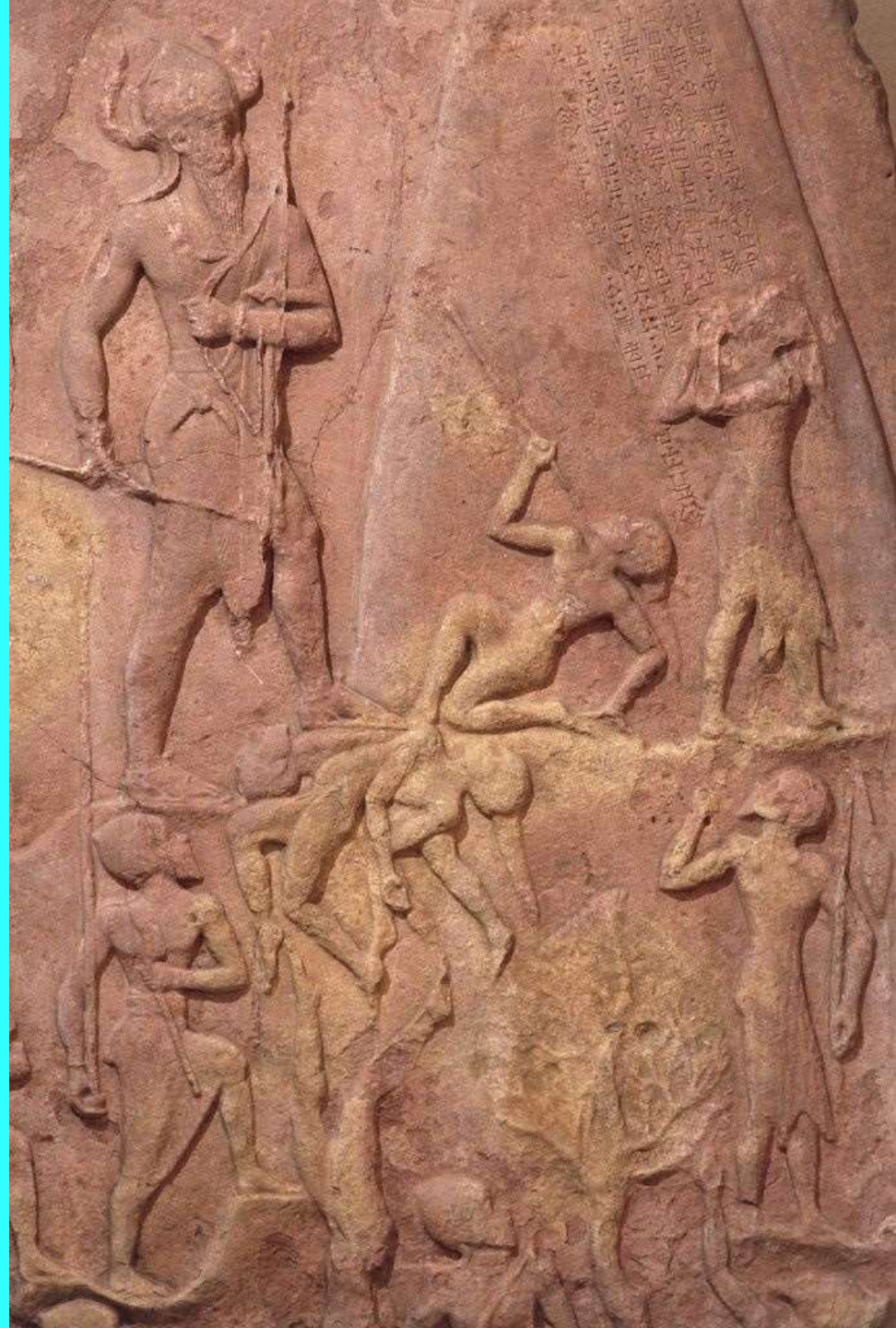
Victory Stele of Naram-Sin,
From Susa, Iran (probably came
originally from Sippar, an Akkadian city
and brought by the Elamites to Susa),
2254–2218 BCE
Pink sandstone, approx. 6' 7" high.
Louvre, Paris.





Comparison: Ishtar (Queen of heaven/morning and evening star) and Shamash (sun god). Akkadian cylinder seal

Victory Stele of Naram-Sin.
Detail





Victory Stele of Naram-Sin. Detail

**Victory Stele of
Naram-Sin. Detail**

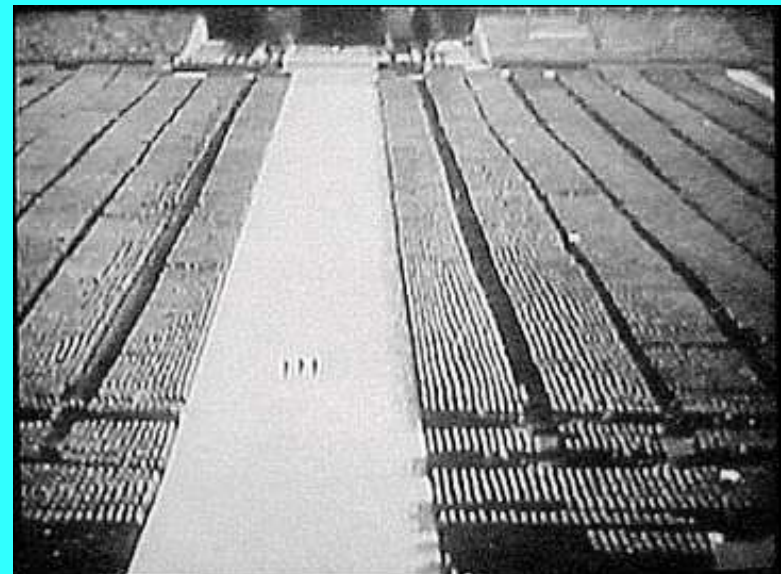
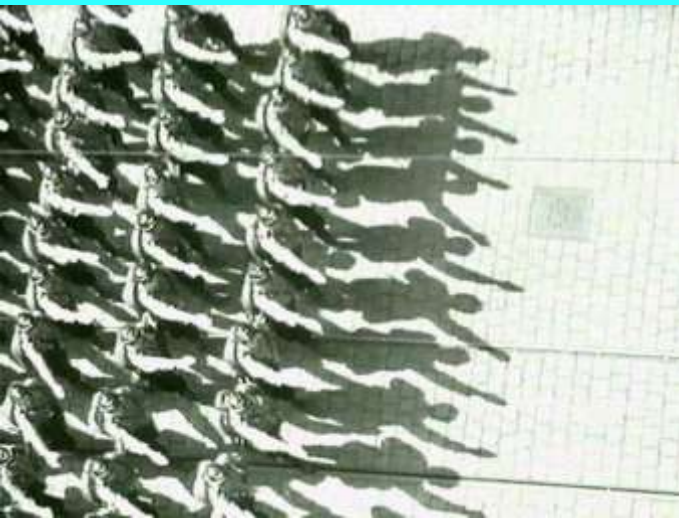




Triumph of the Will is a propaganda film made by Leni Riefenstahl. It chronicles the 1934 Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg.



Triumph of the Will is "a totally unique and incomparable glorification of the power and beauty of our Movement." - Adolf Hitler



160,000 Germans stand in silence as Hitler, Himmler and Lutze walk a ceremonial pathway toward a giant wreath honoring Germans killed in battle.

Art assists in various rituals

Mandala –

A Hindu or Buddhist graphic symbol of the universe, that is used chiefly as an aid to meditation.

Creating a Kalachakra mandala of some 2 meters diameter, traditionally takes 6 days, employing as many as 16 monks.

The Kalachakra Sand Mandala





Monk working on Sand Mandala at Nashua High School.

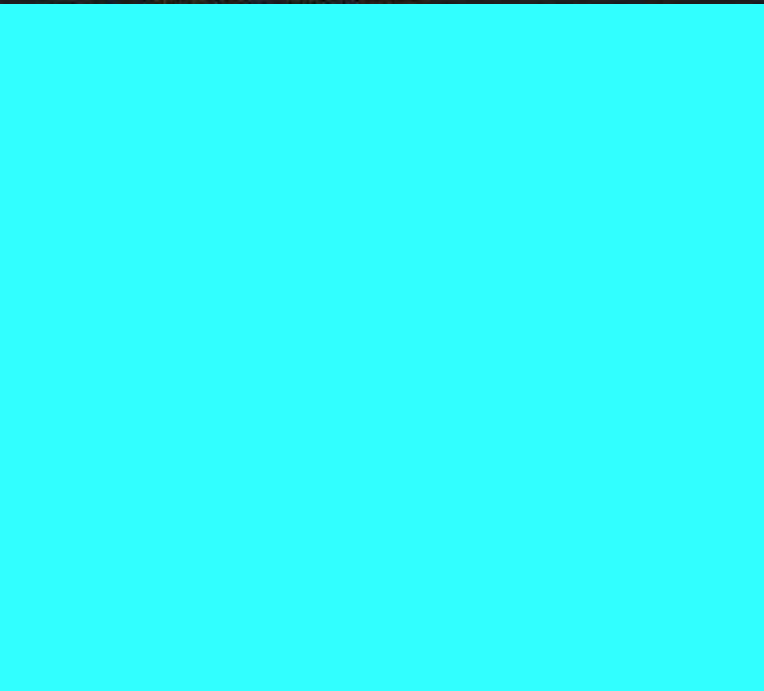
construction and destruction of a mandala

Art entertains

Art Cars at "Burning Man"



Larry Harvey likens the art cars to "sublimely beautiful works of art floating across the playa like a Miro painting."





© Tristan Savatier - www.playa-dust.com

Nights on the Playa







In 2011 the United States Supreme Court ruled that video games are entitled to First Amendment protection (freedom of speech) – "Like the protected books, plays, and movies that preceded them, video games communicate ideas—and even social messages—through many familiar literary devices and through features distinctive to the medium. That suffices to confer First Amendment protection."

Creativity

Creative people tend to possess certain traits:

1. **Sensitivity**- heightened awareness
2. **Flexibility**- adapt to new possibilities
3. **Originality**- problem solving creatively
4. **Playfulness**- humor & experimentation
5. **Productivity**- ability to generate ideas
6. **Fluency**- free flow of ideas
7. **Analytical skill**- exploring problems, & finding how they work
8. **Organizational skill**- putting things together in a coherent order.



Alan Rath. *Hound*. 1990. Wood, steel, aluminum, electronics, and cathode-ray tubes, 18X76X26". Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

Looking and Responding

Seeing is both psychological and physical process.

The Psychological Process:

Everything we see is filtered through a history of fear, prejudices, desires, emotions, customs and beliefs. Through art we can understand those filters and learn to look more closely at the visual world.

The physical process has 3 steps:

1. **Reception** – external stimuli enter the nervous system through the eyes.
2. **Extraction** – the retina (nerve cells at the back of the eye) extracts the information it needs and send it to the visual cortex. There are approximately 100 million sensors in the retina but only 5 million channels to the visual cortex so the retina does a lot of “editing”.
3. **Inference** – The visual cortex (the part of the brain that processes visual stimuli) receive the information of such features as color, motion, orientation and size, and “creates” what is finally seen.

Still life: A painting or other two-dimensional work in which the subject matter is an arrangement of objects. Also, the arrangement of objects itself.



Still-Life with Flowers and Goblets
1612, Oil on wood, 59,5 x 49 cm
Staatliche Kunsthalle, Karlsruhe



Vanitas: (Latin- Vanity)

Type of still-life painting featuring skulls, musical instruments, etc.,. Such paintings are meant as a reminder of the transience of life, the futility of pleasure and the certainty of death, encouraging a somber world view.

Juan de Valdes Leal
Vanitas. 1660. Oil on
Canvas, 51X39”

Audrey Flack
Wheel of Fortune
(Vanitas), 1977-
78. Oil over acrylic
on canvas, 8' x 8'.





Juan de Valdes Leal

Vanitas. 1660. Oil on Canvas,
51X39”



Audrey Flack. *Wheel of Fortune (Vanitas)*, 1977-78. Oil over acrylic
on canvas, 8' x 8'.